MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

TO THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

OF THE

BARNSTAPLE UNION.

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

Barnstaple:

PERCIVAL HARRIS, ELECTRIC PRESS, HIGH STREET.

Barnstaple,

February 8th, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the sanitary condition of the District for the year 1908.

It is a source of general satisfaction to note that the Death Rate, Infant Mortality Death Rate and the Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases are the lowest ever recorded for the District. and compare most favourably with those of the Rural Population of England and Wales for 1908.

	District.	Rural England & Wales.
Death Rate per 1000 living ...	12·05 ...	13·08
Zymotic Death Rate	0·11 ...	0·99
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	63 ...	110

There is a distinct diminution in the number of deaths from Tubercular Disease.

Mr. Kingwell's report is included. Reference to it will show what a very large amount of work he has done during the year.

The general health of the District has been exceptionally good throughout the year, and many important sanitary improvements have been effected.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN R. HARPER.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Medical Officer of Health, 1908,

Of the Rural District of the Barnstaple Union.

The Rural Sanitary District of Barnstaple Union has an area of 132,059 acres, and consists of 35 Parishes divided into three districts, viz :—

	Acreage.	Population at 1901 census.
No. 1—Barnstaple	36,142	6,198
No. 2—Ilfracombe	39,824	6,142
No. 3—Combmartin	56,093	5,352
	132,059	17,692

The number of inhabited houses were 4,077 ; average number of persons per house 4·33.

The district is bounded on the north and west by the Bristol Channel ; on the east by the County of Somerset, and on the south is in relation with the Rural Sanitary Districts of Bideford, Torrington and Southmolton. The country throughout is hilly, especially in its northern part, where it is extremely rugged, and where hills rising sharply from the sea reaching in some places to over 1000 feet. The district is intersected in all parts by deep valleys. On the coast several seaside villages, Santon, Croyde, Woolacombe, Morthoe, Instow and Combmartin, receive a large influx of visitors in the summer, and have been for several years past popular holiday resorts. Many of the inland villages, Braunton, Bratton, Ashford, Challacombe, Parracombe, &c., are similarly popular, and always have a large summer population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated population for the year 1908 is 16,754. At the last census the population of the district was 17,692, the number of inhabited houses 4.077, and the average number of persons per house 4·33. The total area of the district in acres is 132,059.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during the year was 364, males 190, females 174, equal to a birth rate of 21·72 per 1000, this is a small fraction higher than that of last year, which was the lowest on record.

There were 5 illegitimate births.

The following table shows the number of births and the birth rates compared with those of the Rural Populations of England and Wales during the last 10 years :—

Year.	Number of Births.	Birth rate per 1000 living.	Birth rate of rural population of England & Wales
1899	481	26·8	
1900	441	23·65	
1901	389	22·04	27·2
1902	424	24·14	27·1
1903	403	23·12	27·3
1904	396	22·90	26·8
1905	388	22·61	27·2
1906	389	22·85	26·3
1907	360	21·31	25·6
1908	364	21·72	26·2

The decline in the birth rate throughout the district during the last 10 years, is, as the above table shows, a marked one, and is to some extent accounted for by the exodus of the younger portion of the population to the larger centres. A decline in birth rates is not, however, confined to the rural districts.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths occurring in the district were 191, to this must be added 11, occurring in residents dying in public institutions outside. This making the total deaths 202, equal to a death rate of 12·05 per 1000, the lowest death rate recorded for the district.

The following table shows the deaths and death rates compared with those of the Rural Population of England and Wales during the last 10 years.

Year.	Number of Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 living.	Death rate of rural population of England & Wales
1899	283	15·13	17·1
1900	263	14·1	17·5
1901	232	13·11	15·7
1902	231	13·16	15·3
1903	223	12·79	14·8
1904	261	15·08	15·3
1905	257	14·98	14·9
1906	233	13·68	15·0
1907	241	14·27	14·7
1908	202	12·05	13·8

The death rate is the lowest recorded in the district. As will be observed from the following Table over 52 per cent. of the deaths are in people over 65 years of age, and over 15 per cent. of the total deaths were returned as the result of senile decay.

Table shewing the deaths at the different ages :—

Under 1 year	23	or	12·1	per cent.
1 Year and under 5 years	3	or	1·7	,,
5 Years ,, 15 ,,	7	or	3·8	,,
15 ,, ,, 24 ,,	7	or	3·8	,,
25 ,, ,, 65 ,,	50	or	26·2	,,
65 ,, and over	101	or	52·4	,,
Total	191		100	

Analysis of age of death in those over 65 :—

Age	65-70	Number	25
,,	70-75	,,	20
,,	75-80	,,	20
,,	80-85	,,	23
,,	85-90	,,	11
,,	90-95	,,	1
,,	95 and over	,,	1
			101

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 23 deaths in children under one year of age, the following table shewing the chief causes of death for 1908, compared with the preceding 5 years :—

Disease.	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	1	0	1	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diptheria : Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	1	10	0	0
Diarrhœa Diseases	3	4	4	3	0	1
Premature Birth	2	7	4	8	9	4
Congenital Defects	0	1	2	1	1	2
Marasmus	8	9	6	5	7	3
Tubercular Diseases	0	1	0	1	1	1
Convulsions	7	7	6	6	4	5
Bronchitis	2	5	1	3	2	2
Pneumonia	3	3	3	1	7	1
Other causes	7	4	7	1	5	4
Totals	36	41	35	40	36	23

The Infant Mortality per 1000 births is 63·18, by far the lowest recorded for this district. That for the Rural Population of England and Wales for 1908 is 110 per 1000. This means that in our own district last year out of every 1000 births 63 died before they reached 1 year of age, comparing most favourably with previous years when the average of the last 10 years was 98.

A low Infant Mortality is a great asset to the nation and indicates a healthy community.

DEATHS DUE TO ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Only 2 deaths occurred from Zymotic Diseases during the year. This is unusually low, and makes the Zymotic death rate equal to ·11 per 1000 living ; the lowest recorded for the district.

The following Table gives the deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases compared with those of the 5 previous years :—

Disease.	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	1
Measles	0	4	7	7	0	3
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	17	2	0	4
Diphtheria	0	2	2	0	4	1
Enteric Fever	0	1	0	0	0	1
Diarrhœa	1	1	1	4	3	1
Totals ...	2	8	27	14	8	12

The Zymotic death rate for 1908 for the Rural Population of England and Wales, was 0·99 per 1000.

DISEASE INCIDENTS.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

During the year 87 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified and were scattered fairly evenly throughout the whole district.

The following table gives a list of them compared with the 5 preceding years :—

Disease.	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	6
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	9	9	15	5	31	6
Erysipelas	5	10	4	14	10	17
Scarlet Fever	67	51	44	91	144	44
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	6	2	6	4	1	3
Relapsing Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	1	0	0	3	1
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	87	73	69	114	189	77

SMALLPOX.

No cases of this disease have been notified since 1903.

DIPHTHERIA.

Nine cases have been notified. There have been no deaths. The majority of cases occurred in children attending school, in only one case was any serious sanitary defect discovered upon inspection The local authority provide antoxin gratuitously where the medical attendant considers it justifiable.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Six cases have been notified. There were no deaths. They were distributed as follows :—Horwood, 2 ; Georgeham, 2 ; Eastdown, 1 ; Loxhore, 1

Sanitary defects were discovered as follows :— Pollution of drinking water by surface drainage, 1 ; cesspits within 5 yards of the dwelling-house, 2 ; defective drain to water closet, 1.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 67 cases of this disease. There was 1 death. They were distributed as follows :—

No. 1	District	24
No. 2	,,	34
No. 3	,,	9

ERYSIPELAS.

Only 5 cases were notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There was no notification of this disease.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

There were very few cases of Measles. They were of a mild character, and there were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.

No deaths were returned from this disease, and there were very few cases.

PHTHISIS.

This disease shews signs of diminishing throughout the district. Twelve deaths were returned, and 2 deaths were returned from " other Tubercular Diseases."

The Sanitary Inspector disinfects gratuitously all rooms recently occupied by a consumptive, upon due notice being given to him.

The following table shows the deaths from Phthisis during the last six years : —

1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
19	26	15	11	16	12

The Phthisis death rate for the district per 1000 for 1908 is ·71.

The distribution of the disease was as follows :—Instow 3 ; Swimbridge 2 ; Bishopstawton, Marwood, Morthoe, Pilton West, Berrynarbor, Challacombe, and Westdown 1 each.

Considering the wide extent of the district it is exceptionally free from Tuberculosis.

CANCER.

There have been 18 deaths from Cancer, a slight increase over the last 2 years.

1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
26	12	20	16	14	18

The following is the distribution of the Disease :—Landkey 1 ; Tawstock 1 ; Stoke Rivers 1 ; Morthoe 2 ; Newton Tracey 1 ; Westleigh 1 ; Braunton 6 ; Sherwell 1 ; Swimbridge 1 ; Combmartin 2 ; Marwood 1.

Age distribution of Cancer :—

	50-55	55-60	60-65	65-70	70-75	75-80	80-90
Males	0		1	4	2	2	
Females	1		2	4			2

It will be noticed that by far the larger number of deaths have occured in those who have passed the age of 65. In a district such as ours in which there is such a large proportion of deaths over 65, (52 per cent) it is surprising that there are not a larger number of deaths from Cancer.

MIDWIVES.

A Report has been presented to the County Council on the results of the inspection of the Midwives in the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Upon the receipt of a notification of an infectious disease, the premises are at once inspected and information obtained as to the situation and surroundings of the house, name of tenant, address of owner or agent of the property, number of living and sleeping rooms, number of inmates, school attended by the children, water and milk supply, the presence of any defects in drainage or nuisance adjacent to or upon the premises, and any other details which may have any relation to the origin or possible spread of disease. These reports are filed and indexed in the office of the Medical Officer of Health. Printed instructions are supplied containing suggestions as to the treatment and isolation of Infectious Diseases, and a supply of disinfectants provided. On the completion of the illness, the rooms are disinfected with Formaline.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

There is still a want in several parts of the district for further accommodation for the labouring class with even medium sized families, many of the present dwellings only owing their survival to this fact.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

There is an undoubted improvement to be reported under this heading, the pail system being gradually introduced throughout the district. There are still, however, several privy middens in existence, with their associated dangers of pollution of the soil around the dwelling and contamination of the well.

REMOVAL & DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

In certain villages, viz., Morthoe, Woolacombe and Instow the house refuse is removed weekly and used as manure.

SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE.

On reference to Mr. Kingwell's report an account of work done referring to the above will be found, Bickington, Westleigh, West Down, Countisbury, all having additional or improved sewerage.

Braunton, Morthoe and Woolacombe have excellent water carriage systems by means of which their sewage is carried into the sea.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is derived from wells, springs and streams. In some of the villages there are public pump wells, in others a separate well for each cottage or group of cottages. In some hamlets water has to be fetched by hand from 100 yards or more away.

Braunton, Woolacombe, Morthoe and Swimbridge have excellent water supplies. At Swimbridge the old supply tanks have been enlarged and are a great improvement.

Several samples of water from wells have had to be condemned on account of surface pollution.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

These have been periodically inspected.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

On April 1st the Dairy, Cowshed and Milkshop Act comes into force throughout the district. Every dairy will in future have to be registered, and will have to conform to the provisions of this Act.

This Act, in addition to providing instruction as to the sanitary requirements of Dairies and Cowsheds, insists upon the importance of providing a pure milk supply. This can only be obtained by enforcing strict cleanliness in the milking utensils employed, in the hands of the milker himself, and in the proper cleansing of the udders of the cow prior to milking.

JOHN R. HARPER.

BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Third Annual Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of cases notified during the past year have been 83, an increase over last year of 21. There have been 67 cases of Scarlet Fever, affecting 44 families of which 30 can be attributed to the lack of proper isolation. Nine cases of Diphtheria and six cases of Typhoid Fever.

Scarlet Fever has been more or less prevalent throughout the year in the Newton Tracey and Horwood Parishes of No. 1 District and Marwood Parish in No. 2 District. It is with the utmost difficulty that people can be induced to take proper precautions to isolate the infected children and in many instances proper isolation is quite impossible.

Two cases of Typhoid Fever were reported from each of the Districts 1, 2, and 3.

In No. 1 District the fever occured in a dwelling house, the drainage of which was very primitive, discharging into a pond about 5 feet away from the back door. The water supply also appeared to be badly polluted and the work of rebuilding the same will shortly be put in hand.

The cases in No. 2 District can hardly be accounted for, for in one case the water supply on being analysed was considered unfit for domestic purposes and in the second case the water supply is quite satisfactory ; the drainage of both houses being as satisfactory as circumstances will permit.

The cases in No. 3 District were both contracted outside the District, the local conditions being satisfactory.

Much trouble is occasioned owing to the inability of proper limewashing of the premises after each case of Fever being obtained. In many instances the parents of the infected child are too poor to do the work required and it is difficult to get the owner to do the work immediately. In many Districts the Council supply 2lb. packets of lime free to all infected houses in the same way as the

disinfectants are supplied. This enables the tenant to do the work at once and thus ensuring that the premises are cleansed immediately. I beg to suggest for the Council's consideration that the same method of distribution of 2lb. packets of lime being carried out in this District.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The plans deposited with the Council numbered 76 being an increase over that of last season of 16 plans.

Overcrowding is still existent in several Parishes owing to the lack of adequate accommodation for the working classes. During the course of the next twelve months I am anticipating a large increase in this respect, as I have been notified that small estates will be opened up in three or four of the Parishes, thus completing a long felt want.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The work under this heading has been considerable during the past year and has necessitated the services of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector but it is with satisfaction that I report that the major portion of this work has now been completed and that the work should now fall back to its usual course.

Bickington. The higher portion of the Village is being flushed and ventilated and the lower length from the junction of the main road to the outfall has been entirely relaid. At the entrance to Coates' Field a system of irrigation pipes have been provided, valves being provided for the purpose of directing the sewage either to the irrigation gutters or to the main tank. The old tank having been done away with and a new tank provided. The whole system is practically complete and compares favorably with any system in the District.

Braunton. The old nuisance of an accumulation of cesspits along the Old Barnstaple Road has been entirely done away with by the extension of the Heanton Street Sewer. Although rather an expensive cutting for so short a length, it enables all the existing and prospective dwellings to connect to the sewer in preference to the system of cesspits.
It has been decided to extend the sewer at Vellator to the satisfaction of the Board of Conservators. The work will be delayed for some time owing to the high water and as soon as this recedes the work will be proceeded with.

Countisbury. The new sewerage system of Countisbury was formally taken over by the Council toward the middle of the year and the house connections were immediately proceeded with. Every drain was examined by the Smoke Test before connecting to the sewer and in nearly every instance the drains were found defective, and accordingly relaid, altered or repaired and then connected to the sewer.

West Down. In accordance with the instructions of this Council I have carried out the Sewerage Scheme for this parish in accordance with the plans passed by the Local Government Board. Nearly all the house connections have been proceeded with, and many drains have been relaid. In regard to the much talked-of nuisance at Home Barton Farm, the Parish Council have decided to carry out the Sewerage Scheme for that part of the parish, and plans and specifications have been prepared and the work will be carried out almost immediately.

Westleigh. Since my last report the Council have been advised that the Sewerage Scheme No. II has been accepted by the Local Government Board. The whole of the work has been completed to my satisfaction and it was also deemed advisable to relay the existing sewer through the village and so complete the whole scheme. Most of the houses have been connected and the few remaining are being pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Landkey. The whole of the drainage of this Parish is in a very poor condition and requires to be dealt with in an efficient manner. Many of the houses drain direct to the roadway and in only two or three instances the drains can be considered sound.

The water supply is derived solely from shallow wells and many are subject to pollution to an alarming extent.

WATER SUPPLY.

Swimbridge. Owing to the accumulation of frogs, rats and other animal life found in the small tank at Indiwell, it has been found necessary to enlarge the existing supply tanks.

Two large tanks are now provided with a capacity of 5000 gallons storage. At the inlet and outlet of each tank is provided fine hair wove separators, which can be taken out at will to be cleansed. Each tank is provided with an independent cleansing pipe and an alternate flushing pipe, thus enabling the supply to remain uninterrupted whilst in tanks, in turn, are being cleansed.

Braunton.

The water supply still attains a high state of efficiency, and at the commencement of the year additional springs were acquired by the Council, thus raising the storage capacity during the summer months.

Nearly every house is provided from the public supply, only a few wells remaining in use for domestic purposes.

The greater portion of the "scattered portion" of the District derive its water supply from village wells and pumps. Alterations will shortly be carried out to the wells at Georgeham, Lovacott and other parts of the District.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

The "Privy Pail System" is being steadily pushed forward and many new ones have been constructed during the past twelve months

The house refuse has been collected at Morthoe, Woolacombe and Instow by contract.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Whilst all the Slaughter-houses, so far as is known, have been kept under observation, it has been impossible to take any definite action owing to the lack of Bye-laws. The latter have now been passed by the Council and the Local Government Board, and will come into force on the 1st of April next.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

The Bye-laws for the governing of the Dairies and Cowsheds throughout this district come into operation on the 1st of April next, and it is then hoped to put all the Dairies and Cowsheds on a proper footing. That they are generally in a poor condition is to say the least, and it is hoped that much effectual work will be carried out in the course of the next year or two. The Dairies, so far as possible, have been inspected, and alterations, &c., have been made in several cases.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

The Factories and Workshops of the District remain in a fair condition. The cleanliness and ventilation, &c., being generally good throughout. All the Bakehouses have been visited, and lime-washing, &c., has been required in several instances, and alterations to the drains were required at a bakehouse in No. 2 District.

INSPECTIONS, &c.

Number of complaints, about			80
Number of inspections recorded			2,758
Number of re-inspections			450
Number of visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, &c.			130
Number of visits to Slaughter-houses			67
Number of inspections under the Factory and Workshops Acts :			
Factories	15		
Workshops	55		
Bakehouses	65		135
Number of inspections to houses in course of erection ...			376
Number of notices served :			
To provide Earth or Privy accommodation ...			156
To provide water closet accommodation and to alter, relay or repair the existing drains			123
To provide sufficient water supply, repair pump, &c. ...			35
To make premises fit for Human Habitation ...			5
Summons' issued to have premises closed ...			4
Well water taken for Analysis			1
Old wells superceded by Public Supply about			23
New wells sunk about			25
House drains connected to sewer about			75
House drains provided, renewed or repaired over ...			125
Heaps of refuse removed, etc.			Many
Plans received and adopted			76
Plans referred back for amendment			19

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC G. KINGWELL,

Sanitary and Building Surveyor and
Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Table showing Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year		At all Ages						
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate per 1000 Births regist'rd	No.	Rate				No.	Rate
1898	18729	488	26·00	37	75·80	247	13·20	0	0	4	251	13·40
1899	18685	481	26·80	57	118·50	275	14·66	0	0	8	283	15·13
1900	18641	441	23·65	46	104·30	256	13·73	0	0	7	263	14·10
1901	17692	389	22·04	31	79·56	220	12·43	0	0	12	232	13·11
1902	17558	424	24·14	31	75·11	214	12·16	0	0	17	231	13·16
1903	17424	403	23·12	36	89·35	208	11·35	0	0	15	223	12·79
1904	17290	396	22·90	41	103·53	249	14·40	0	0	12	261	15·08
1905	17156	388	22·61	35	91·66	230	14·57	0	0	27	257	14·98
1906	17022	389	22·85	40	102·82	219	12·86	0	0	14	233	13·68
1907	16888	360	21·31	36	100	229	13·56	0	0	12	241	14·27
Averages for years 1898-1907.	17708	415	23·51	39	94·06	234	13·29	0	0	12	247	13·97
1908	16754	364	21·72	23	63·18	191	11·40	0	0	11	202	12·05

Total population at all ages at last Census 17692
Number of Inhabited Houses „ 4077
Average number of persons per house „ 4·33
Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 132059

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1908 and previous years in Rural Districts of the Barnstaple Union.

Names of Localities.	No. 1 District.				No. 2 District.				No. 3 District.			
YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898	6707	173	82	13	6644	171	96	9	5378	144	69	15
1899	6687	139	90	19	6628	182	87	17	5370	100	98	21
1900	6661	163	97	21	6612	144	81	16	5362	134	78	8
1901	6198	139	58	6	6142	139	83	15	5352	111	91	10
1902	6135	157	74	13	6082	140	94	12	5344	127	46	6
1903	6066	124	67	4	6022	156	70	17	5336	123	69	15
1904	6000	144	97	12	5962	142	89	15	5328	110	63	14
1905	5934	137	90	12	5902	136	74	11	5320	115	66	12
1906	5868	131	78	11	5842	144	66	15	5312	114	75	14
1907	5802	129	79	12	5782	129	78	8	5304	102	72	16
Averages of Years 1895 to 1907 ...	6205	143	81	12	6161	148	81	13	5340	118	72	13
1908	5736	135	73	9	5740	116	52	5	5296	113	66	9

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in whole District.							Tot. cases notified in each locality.		
	At all Ages	Under 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and over	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	9	...	3	4	1	1	...	4	1	4
Erysipelas ...	5	...	...	...	...	5	...	3	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	67	...	19	41	4	3	...	24	34	9
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	6	...	...	3	1	2	...	2	2	2
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...
Totals ...	87	...	22	48	6	11	...	33	38	16

TABLE IV.

Table showing the Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in or belonging to Localities at a	
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	No. 1 District	No. 2 District
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever (Typhus)	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Fever (Enteric)	...	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	...
Fever (Other Continued)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	3	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	..
Cholera	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	1	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12	...	...	...	3	9	...	6	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1	..	...	..	1	...	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	18	...	...	...	...	4	14	5	10
Bronchitis	11	2	...	...	..	2	7	8	1
Pneumonia	6	1	2	...	...	2	1	3	...
Pleurisy	1	.	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Heart Diseases	34	...	...	2	...	9	23	11	5
Accidents	6	1	...	..	1	4	...	1	4
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Senile Decay	26	...	...	...	..	...	26	10	7
All other causes	62	12	1	3	2	15	29	19	18
All Causes	191	23	3	7	7	50	101	73	52

TABLE V.

Table showing Infantile Mortality during the year 1908, Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age,

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified	7	1	2	...	...	1	1	2	2	1	...	1	...	2		1	23
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria: Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Enteritis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Congenital Defects	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Injury at Birth	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Want of Breast-milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuber. Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuber. Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Suffocation, overlaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

Population estimated to middle of 1908	16754
Births in the year, legitimate ...	359
„ „ illegitimate ...	5
Deaths from all causes at all ages ...	191

TABLE VI.

Table showing the Deaths from Cancer and Phthisis, Births, Deaths and Notifications of Infectious Diseases in each village of the No. 1 District for the year 1908.

Names of Localities.	Population at 1901 Census	Births	Deaths	DEATHS FROM			INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.					
				Cancer	Phthisis	Other tubercular diseases	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Small pox
Atherington	453	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Bishop's Tawton	780	20	5	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Fremington	1182	32	13	...	...	...	8	1	...	...	...	...
Horwood	102	3	1	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	...
Instow	634	10	8	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Landkey	621	20	14	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Newton Tracey	127	0	2	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Swimbridge	1106	20	16	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Tawstock	792	12	6	1	...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...
Westleigh	401	8	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	6198	135	73	5	6	1	24	4	3	2	0	0

TABLE VII

Table showing the Deaths from Cancer and Phthisis, Births, Deaths and Notification of Infectious Diseases in each village of the No. 2 District for the year 1908.

Names of Localities.	Population at 1901 Census.	Births.	Deaths.	DEATHS FROM			INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.					
				Cancer.	Phthisis.	Other tubercular diseases.	Scarletina	Diph-theria.	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Small-pox
Ashford	148	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Bittadon	54	2	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
Braunton	2133	37	22	6	...	..	6	1	...	...	...	...
Georgeham	698	20	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Goodleigh	253	3	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Heanton Punchardon	404	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Marwood	681	10	7	1	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	...
Morthoe	780	15	8	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Pilton West	100	0	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shirwell	338	7	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
West Down	553	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	6142	116	52	10	4	1	34	1	1	2	0	0

TABLE VIII.

Table showing the Deaths from Cancer and Phthisis, Births, Deaths and Notifications of Infectious Diseases in each village of the No. 3 District for the year 1908.

Names of Localities.	Population at 1901 Census	Births	Deaths	DEATHS FROM			INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED					
				Cancer	Phthisis	Other tubercular diseases	Scarlatina	Diph-theria	Erysipelas	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Small-pox
Arlington	217	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Berrynarbor	589	20	8	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bratton Fleming	511	5	8	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Brendon	262	7	1	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	...
Challacombe	195	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Combmartin	1521	27	25	2	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Countisbury	268	6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
East Down	326	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..
High Bray	208	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kentisbury	304	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loxhore	220	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Martinhoe	174	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Parracombe	315	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Stoke Rivers	174	8	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trentishoe	68	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	5352	113	66	3	2	0	9	4	1	2	0	0

RAINFALL AND TEMPERATURE IN NORTH DEVON AND AT SIMONSBATH

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

STATION.	Height in feet above sea level.	RAINFALL.				TEMPERATURE IN SCREEN.			
		Total fall. Inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.	Greatest fall in 24 hours. Inches.	Date.	Max.	Date.	Min.	Date.
Lynmouth (Rock House), T. H. Mead-Briggs	20	31·66 ins.	190	1·33 ins.	Aug. 26th	79 degs.	July 1st, 3rd.	21 degs.	Jan. 4th, 10th.
Barnstaple (North Devon Athenæum), T. Wainwright	25	28·35 ins.	202	·95 ins.	July 16th	83·5 degs.	July 3rd	16 degs.	Jan. 5th.
Ilfracombe, M. W. Tattam	35	31·29 ins.	203	1·23 ins.	July 16th	79·3 degs.	Sept. 31st	26·6 degs.	Jan. 5th.
*Woolacombe, R. N. Kivell	60	24·77 ins.	185	·87 ius.	Aug. 26th	81 degs.	July 3rd	23·4 degs.	Jan. 4th.
Santon (Preston House), Miss Durham	75	29·14 ins.	159	1·01 ins.	Aug. 26th				
Pilton (Broadgate), Mrs. Hibbert	83	27·93 ins.	177	1·12 ins.	July 16th				
Instow, Miss Lock	100	23·30 ins.	162	·72 ins.	July 16th				
Newport (King's Close), C. H. Pitts Tucker	138	28·09 ins.	199	1·25 ius.	July 16th				
Northam, Rev Preb. Dimond-Churchward	173	26·74 ins.	175	·76 ins.	Aug. 26th	88 degs.	July 3rd	18 degs.	Jan. 2nd and 4th.
Hartland Abbey, G. Sleep	222	28·83 ins.	159	·98 ins.	July 16th				
Horwood, Rev. John Dene	288	25·62 ins.	190	·70 ius.	July 16th	81 degs.	June 26th	15 degs.	Jan. 4th.
Lynmouth (Gwynallt), A. L. Ford	300	34·36 ins.	181	1·50 ins.	Aug. 31st				
Ilfracombe (Bickleighscombe) Mrs. Slade-King, Mar. 1, Dec. 31	300	30·40 ins.	144	1·35 ins.	Dec. 28th	82 degs.	July 2nd	22 degs.	Dec. 28th.
Filleigh (Castle Hill Gardens), E. E. Bristow	317	33·28 ins.	182	1·40 ins.	Aug. 31st	84 degs.	July 4th	13 degs.	Jan. 5th.
Alverdiscott, F. A. Trevan	330	29·38 ins.	172	·80 ins.	Aug. 31st	88 degs.	July 3rd	14 degs.	Jan. 5th.
Gammaton, H West	335	27·86 ins.	162	·85 ins.	Aug. 31st				
Torrington (Enfield), G. M. Doe	336	29·96 ins.	196	·93 ins.	Aug. 26th	84 degs.	July 2nd	12 degs.	Jan. 5th.
Chulmleigh (Leigh House), W. Gillies, June 24 to Dec. 31	350	15·75 ins.							
Filleigh (School House), W. H. Reeve	363	35 88 ins.	221	1·33 ins.	Nov. 21st	83·8 degs.	July 3rd	13·9 degs.	Jan. 5th.
Ilfracombe (Reservoir), O. M. Prouse	380	39·51 ins.	226	1·38 ins.	July 16th				
Torrington (Little Silver) L. L. Lloyd	395	32·63 ins.	206	1·02 ins.	Aug. 26th				
St. Giles (Stevenstone), W. Gillies, to June 23	420	16·52 ins.							
Warkleigh, Rev. J. H. Thompson	510	32·24 ins.	208	·92 ins.	July 16th				
Arlington Court, F. A. Edwards	590	45·49 ins.	221	2·02 ins.	July 16th	83 degs.	July 4th	18 degs.	Jan. 5th, 6th, 11th.
Molland, S. J. Case	612	43·68 ins.	218	1·55 ins.	July 16th				
West Buckland (Devon County School), G. C. Fry	681	35·78 ins.	196	1·62 ins.	July 16th	86 degs.	July 3rd	25 degs.	Jan. 2nd, Dec. 30th.
Stoke Rivers, Mrs. Chamings	700	38·69 ins.	185	1·50 ins.	July 16th				
Parracombe, Rev. J. F. Chanter	795	42·38 ins.	185	1·41 ins.	July 16th				
Martinhoe, Rev. R. W. Oldham	808	34·07 ins.	194	1·37 ins.	Aug. 26th				
Challacombe, Ilfracombe U.D. Council (per A. Leworthy)	825	55·63 ins.	203	2·55 ins.	July 16th				
Simonsbath, Rev. H. F. Ramsay	1098	61·30 ins.	208	2·53 ins.	July 16th	76 degs.	July 3rd	14 degs.	Jan. 5th, 11th.

*Woolacombe sunshine, 1,824 hours.

North Devon Athenæum, Barnstaple, January 11th, 1909.

THOS. WAINWRIGHT.